

RAILROADS APPEAL FOR INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES

Business Depression and European War Lead to Shrinkage in Revenues.

ADVANCE OF 5 PER CENT IS REQUESTED OF I. C. C.

President Willard, of the B. & O., Is Principal Witness.

SAYS SITUATION IS CRITICAL

Clifford Thorne, Representing Many Interests, Appears in Opposition.

WASHINGTON, October 19.—Business depression and the European war today were assigned as reasons why Eastern railroads should have at least a 5 per cent increase in freight rates by representatives of the system appearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission. It was asserted that these two conditions had led to a shrinkage of more than \$75,000,000 in the annual net revenues of thirty-eight Eastern roads, operating more than 59,000 miles of railway.

Daniel E. Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio, and head of the conference of presidents of the lines involved, was the principal witness. He was supported by a mass of statistics presented by Vice-President Shriver, of the same line. Further evidence will be submitted to-morrow.

In opposition to the plea of the carriers, Clifford Thorne appeared for public service corporations of several Middle Western and Intermountain States and also for shipper organizations in the region affected. Mr. Thorne declared his purpose and the desire of the shippers was that the public's side of the question should be fully brought out.

BRANDEIS ASSAILED

WILLARD'S POSITION

Louis Brandeis, counsel for the commission, assailed Mr. Willard's position in cross-examination. Calling attention to the fact that the Baltimore and Ohio this year had declared its regular 6 per cent dividend despite an actual deficit of more than \$3,000,000 in net revenues, Mr. Brandeis indicated that the road had been able to maintain its dividend.

Mr. Willard said the dividend had been maintained at 6 per cent this year at his recommendation. He declared he believed it justified by the fact that the road had \$12,000,000 in surplus and it was necessary to maintain the credit of the line.

Mr. Brandeis took exception to the statement of the Baltimore and Ohio surplus. He insisted that \$22,000,000 of the \$32,000,000 was represented in the line's investment in securities of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroad, now in the hands of a receiver.

Mr. Willard admitted this, but said the purchase of that road was not an issue in the present hearing.

NOTHING NEW SINCE C. C. N. RECENT RULING

Mr. Brandeis recited the statement of the railroads had disclosed so far nothing original to matters arising from the commission's recent ruling rejecting the Eastern lines' previous plea for a 5 per cent advance in rates. In reopening the case the commission specified limits to matters arising since that time. Mr. Brandeis said the decision had forecast a falling off in revenue of \$75,000,000 for the period embraced, and the company's statement of \$75,000,000 was the only one sent to confirm that estimate.

"The commission also forecast improvement in business conditions," said Mr. Willard, "whereas there actually has been a decline in business since that time."

Mr. Willard said the railroads had followed the suggestions of the commission in making some increases in passenger rates, both on mileage books and straight fares. To the Baltimore and Ohio, he thought it likely the increases would aggregate in time \$130,000 annually on the mileage book, but it was impossible to say how much might be realized from advances on other lines.

"Do you know of any companies—railroads or other corporations—that have been able to market their securities at a better rate than the Baltimore and Ohio?" inquired Mr. Thorne.

"Personally, I do not," replied Mr. Willard. "We sold our securities at a fairly reasonable rate."

INCREASE IN LABOR COST SINCE 1912

"Can you mention any increase in labor cost since 1912?" pursued Mr. Thorne.

"Yes," said Mr. Willard, "we have advanced our laborers engaged on maintenance work in the aggregate between \$500,000 and \$700,000 a year."

Mr. Willard said he did not share the commission's view that coal rates ought not to be increased. "We need additional revenue," said he, "and the best and fairest way would be to advance all rates, including those on coal."

"Are these increases asked for to establish credit or to obtain money to meet obligations?" asked Commissioner Clements.

"Both, in a measure," said Mr. Willard. "The Baltimore and Ohio is well worth its outstanding obligations, and much more, but our returns have been small. We have \$80,000,000 into the property in the last two or three years—\$25,000,000 in short term notes. Conservatively it will require \$15,000,000 a year for many years."

Questioning Mr. Shriver, Mr. Brandeis drew out a statement that the ratio of operating expense per mile had decreased in 1914 from the 1913 figure. In the same connection Mr. Thorne began a cross-examination, tending to show that the cost of railway supplies, with the exception of coal, was lower this year than in preceding years.

"The need of the carriers is pressing and immediate," Mr. Willard declared, in his opening statement, "the actual situation has become extremely critical."

Ostend Reported in Hands of Allies

LONDON, October 20 (2:46 A. M.).—The Morning Post correspondent in the north of France says he learns on excellent authority that the allies have recaptured Ostend.

JOHNSON IS EXONERATED

Field Blameless for Collision Which Sunk Steamer Monroe.

NORFOLK, VA., October 19.—Captain E. E. Johnson, master of the Old Dominion steamer Monroe, whose vessel was rammed and sunk by the Merchants' and Miners' Transportation Company's steamer Nantuxet on the morning of January 30, with the loss of forty-one lives, was exonerated of all blame for the collision in a decision rendered to-day by Colonel John W. Oast, United States supervising steamship inspector for the third district, with headquarters in Norfolk.

Colonel Oast heard the case on an appeal taken by Captain Johnson from the decision of Local Inspectors Charles W. Wright and E. F. White, of Baltimore, rendered on August 19, in which they found him guilty in charges of negligence in navigating the steamer, preferred against him by Captain Osmyn Berry, master of the Nantuxet, and recommended the revocation of his license.

The decision of Colonel Oast, which is said to be quite lengthy, was forwarded to-day to General Uhler, supervising inspector-general of steam vessels, with headquarters in Washington.

TRANSPORTS WELL GUARDED

Canada's Troops Carried to England in Thirty-two Ships.

NEW YORK, October 19.—Canada's troops were carried to England by a line of grey transports, led by a pilot boat and two British cruisers, and flanked by an armada of battleships, according to officers of the Miners' and Merchants' Transportation Company, who arrived on the steamer to-day. The fleet and its convoys were glimpsed 350 miles from the mouth of the Thames on October 19.

All the thirty-two transports were converted passenger liners or merchantmen. The Lapland and the Zealand were in the fleet, but all the names had been painted over, so the officers were uncertain about the others.

The fleet really moved in three lines; the transports with a line of warships on each side. Among the warships were many torpedo boat destroyers, sent out from British ports to reinforce the larger warcraft as the fleet neared its destination.

CAPT. ROBT. E. LEE DYING

Son of Famous Southern Commander Mortally Ill at Upperville.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WASHINGTON, October 19.—Captain Robert E. Lee, son of General Robert E. Lee, is dying at the home of H. Hunter Dulany, at Upperville, Va. Robert E. Lee, brother-in-law of Captain Lee, received a telegram this afternoon, stating that Captain Lee was in a dying condition. Mr. Dulany and Colonel Robert E. Lee, Jr., whose home is at Upperville, Va., are said to be at the bedside of the distinguished Virginian.

Captain Lee served throughout the War Between the States as a private and was promoted to a captaincy for exceptional bravery near the close of the war. He is about twenty-one years of age, and has been in feeble health for some time. In addition to Bright's disease, it is said he has suffered from a stroke last week.

Until recently Captain Lee has been residing at his country place, "Romancoke," in King William County.

WILSON NOT CONSULTED

President Has No Part in Stone's Advice to Foreign Nations.

WASHINGTON, October 19.—President Wilson said to-day that Chairman Stone of the Foreign Relations Committee had not consulted him before making his speech last week, advising foreign nations to carefully regard the neutrality of the United States and declined to further discuss the question.

The President said he had given no consideration to Representative Gardner's resolution, which was made in the neutrality of the United States for war, and that the question of armaments had not been discussed by administration officials. No policy could be discussed, he added, because none had been formulated.

AUSTRIAN SUBMARINE SUNK

Well Directed French Shot Sinks Vessel to Bottom.

CETTINJE, MONTENEGRO, October 19 (via London).—An Austrian submarine was sunk in the Adriatic to-day by a French cruiser.

Two submarine vessels went out from the Bay of Cattaro to attack a French fleet which was making its way along the Dalmatian coast. They were quickly sighted, however, by the French lookouts and a well directed shot sent the lead vessel to the bottom.

The other submarine escaped, but the French fleet subsequently recommenced the bombardment of the forts of Cattaro.

An Austrian aeroplane dropped several bombs in the neighborhood of the fleet, but no damage was done.

THEATRE SEATS REDUCED

One Effect of War Financial Strain in Washington.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WASHINGTON, October 19.—One of the effects of the war financial strain on the American pocketbook was shown today, when a leading theatre reduced its orchestra seats to \$1 for the night performance.

The theatre frankly admitted its advance sales were so poor that it felt obliged to make extraordinary inducements to get patronage.

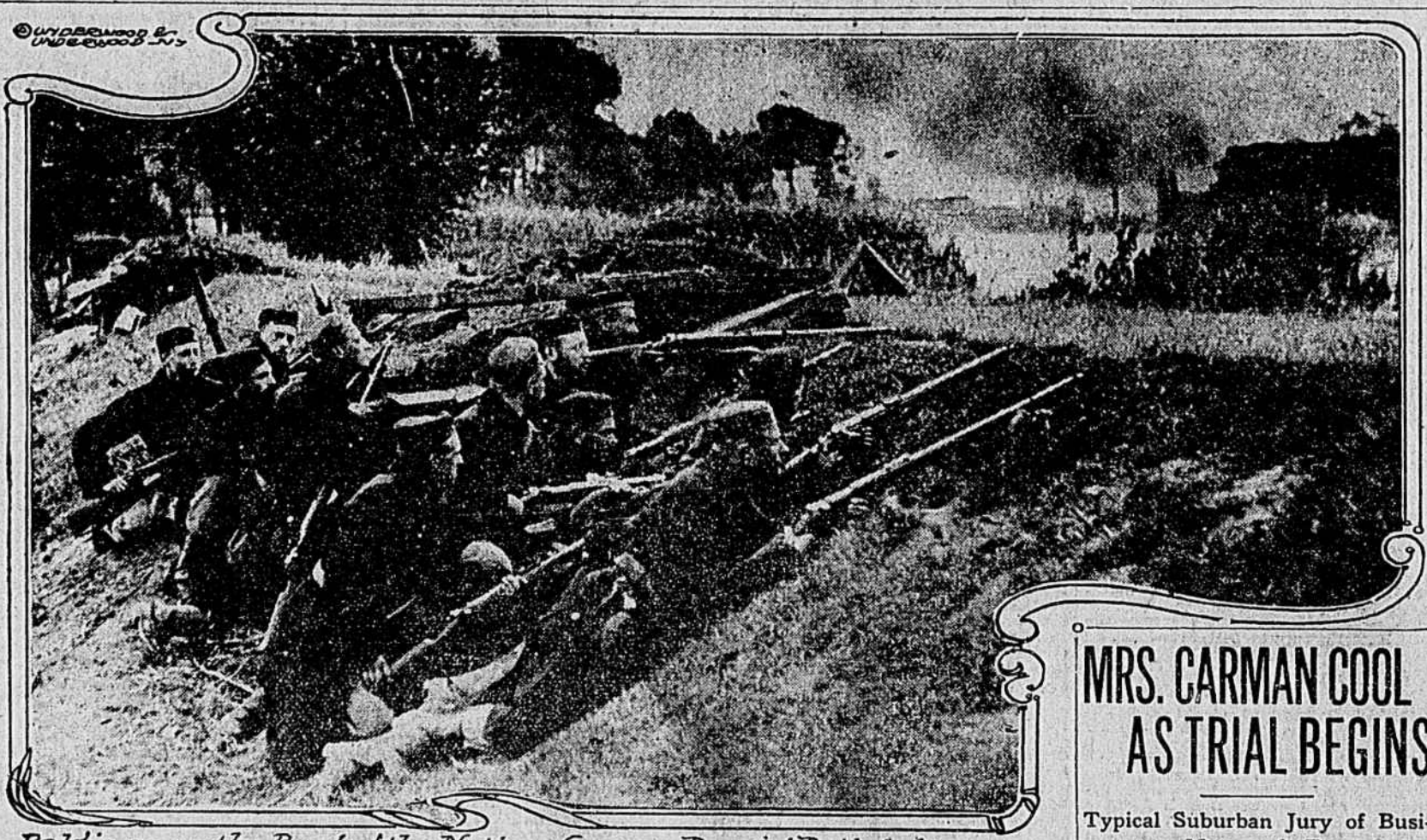
FLAGG JURY IS CHOSEN

Defendant Accused of Making Fraudulent Use of Mail.

NEW YORK, October 19.—A jury was selected late to-day in the trial in Federal court of Jared Flagg, accused of making fraudulent use of the mails. Flagg lost his fight to have the indictment quashed on the ground that one of the jury that indicted him was a member also of the jury that both indicted and convicted Julian Hawthorne and others accused of misuse of the mails.

Flagg is charged with promoting a fraudulent margin brokerage business.

BRITISH WARSHIPS EFFECTIVELY AID LAND FORCES IN RESISTING GERMAN ATTACKS ON SEA COAST; BELGIANS DOGGEDLY MAIN AN THEIR POSITION, HURLING ENEMY BACK WITH VERY HEAVY LOSSES



Belgians on the Bank of the Nethes as Germans Burn Buildings. Belgian marksmen with their long-bored rifles, capable of carrying a long distance, lying in ambush on the bank of the Nethes, ready to pick off the Germans on the opposite side. Note the burning of the buildings on the side of the river occupied by the Germans, who have set them on fire.

MANAGER OF BIJOU IS PLACED UNDER ARREST

Chief of Police Charges Production of Immoral Performance at Burlesque House.

HAD NOT BEEN CENSORED

Manager Briggs, After Securing Bail, Says He Had Not Seen Show Before and Did Not Know of Objectionable Features.

Manager Charles Briggs, of the Bijou Theatre, was arrested last night just after the close of the night performance on the charge of permitting the production of an improper play at the Bijou. The warrant was sworn out by Chief of Police William H. Harrison, in the right of his office, after receiving the warrant charges Briggs with "procuring certain persons to produce and exhibit a certain play called 'The Mischief Makers' before and in the presence of divers persons and in which play there were certain actions, words and indecent suggestions manifestly tending to corrupt the morals of all who saw or witnessed the same."

Beginning on Sunday and extending throughout yesterday convention visitors and delegates poured into the city from every direction, and hundreds of delegates and visitors were expected to arrive to-day. It was freely predicted last night by officers and members of the association that the Richmond convention will be one of the largest and most successful in the history of the organization. The attendance of delegates is expected to reach at least 1,000, and it is likely to exceed that number.

REGISTRATION OFFICES AT JEFFERSON HOTEL

Convention registration headquarters were opened yesterday morning at the Jefferson Hotel, and those in charge spent a busy day registering the hundreds of delegates and visitors as they arrived. The registration office for men is in the main lobby, near the Main Street entrance, while women attending the convention are being registered in the lobby near the Franklin Street entrance. Souvenirs and badges are being given to all who register.

Plans of the local committee on entertainment and reception are working smoothly, and an excellent program of entertainment for convention delegates and members of their families has been arranged. There will be few idle moments for the guests during their stay in Richmond. The local committee requests that citizens who have agreed to lend their automobiles to-day to be used on the sightseeing trip, which has been arranged for the visitors, will please have the machines at the Franklin Street entrance of the Jefferson Hotel this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. At 1 o'clock this afternoon women attending the convention will be carried on an automobile tour to various points of historical interest in and around Richmond. This will be followed by a tea at the Country Club of Virginia.

ORDER OF PRETZELS TO HOLD INITIATION

There will be about 100 members of the S. O. O. P. (Salty Order of Pretzels) attending the convention, and to-night at 8 o'clock new members of the order will be initiated at the Empire Theatre, just before the regular performance of the Lucille La Verne Company. A special ritual has been prepared, and to initiation promises to be one of the most unique features of the convention. Following the initiation will be a performance by members of the Lucille La Verne Company.

The greater part of the membership of the S. O. O. P. is expected to arrive this morning on a special train with other delegates from the West. A large party of Northern delegates came to Richmond yesterday morning from Norfolk, having arrived there on the steamship Jefferson, of the Old Dominion Line. The vessel was chartered by the delegates for the voyage from New York.

Headed those who devote all of their time to actual bread making, there are

Representatives of Every Section Here to Discuss Problems of Trade.

Attractive Entertainment Features Planned for Delegates and Visitors. Many Agents of Supply Houses Here for Convention.

With the stage setting complete and hundreds of delegates and visitors representing practically every section of the United States and Canada ready for the big gathering, the curtain will rise on the formal opening of the seventh annual convention of the National Association of Master Bakers in the Jefferson Hotel auditorium this morning at 10 o'clock. A reception and dance at the Jefferson Hotel last night in honor of the visitors marked the informal opening of the convention. Practically all of the delegates and members of their families attended these events.

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BREADMAKERS ASSEMBLE FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION

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ALLIES MAKE PROGRESS ON BOTH ENDS OF LINE

Attempted Advance of German Forces Along Coast Reaches Critical Point.

Appears Inevitable That Soon There Must Be Some Decisive Result. Inhabitants of Dunkirk and Boulogne Fleeing in Terror.

LONDON, October 19 (10:25 P. M.).—The attempted advance of the German forces along the coast of Belgium and Northern France, apparently with the aim of establishing themselves in British channel ports so they may menace England, has reached a critical point.

The extreme western fighting line now reaches from Arras through the Roulers Neuport on the coast about half-way between Ostend and Dunkirk. According to the French official announcement to-day, German heavy artillery, presumably used in the siege of Antwerp, has been moved to the front from Neuport to Vlissing, which is about ten miles from the coast.

The allies also have made progress eastward from a point south of Arras toward Lille on a line running roughly to Arras. The report tells of house-to-house fighting, in which the allies are advancing. The battle has raged around Arras without respite for ten days, and on the part of the allies with a perseverance and a spirit which never for a moment has been relaxed.

ATTACKS REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSSES

The German official report covers these operations more tersely. It says the attacks were repulsed with heavy losses to the allies.

The situation still is much in the dark. English and French papers gather encouragement from reports published from the V. side. From the German point of view, it is possible the Germans have improved their position, and with the forces that besieged Antwerp and reinforcements from Germany, are attempting along the coast another sweeping movement.

In this field of action, it appears inevitable that soon there must be some decisive result. The country's fitness seems to have made it impossible for the two armies to intrench and face each other without important changes in position for weeks, as they have done across Northern France.

The announcement that the Germans have taken siege guns to the neighborhood of Belfort, may mean they plan an attempted advance on both ends of what has become virtually a long, fortified line.

INHABITANTS FLEE FROM TOWNS IN TERROR

German official reports say the exodus from Ostend is being repeated in the flight of inhabitants from Dunkirk and Boulogne. Confirmation of this assertion has not been received here, but it is wholly possible the proximity of the Germans has created a panic at those ports.

Great battles continue in the eastern theatre between the Russian and Austro-German forces. Reports from both sides are brief and contradictory. Petrograd claims the Russians have won partial success in severe fighting before Warsaw, near Przemyśl. Vienna declares the Austro-German armies have made advances in both regions, and that the Russians' casualties at Przemyśl number 40,000.

IN WASHINGTON TO-DAY

Conference to Determine When to Open Federal Reserve Banks.

WASHINGTON, October 19.—Nearly 100 representatives of the twelve Federal reserve banks are expected in Washington to-morrow for a two-day conference with the Federal Reserve Board to determine when to open the reserve banks.

MRS. CARMAN COOL AS TRIAL BEGINS

Typical Suburban Jury of Business Men and Farmers Quickly Chosen.

ONLY 42 TALESMEN EXAMINED

Accused Woman Takes Active Part in Selection of Men Who Will Decide Her Fate.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] MINNEOLA, L. I., October 19.—The twelve jurors who are to decide whether or not Mrs. Florence Conklin Carman murdered Mrs. Louise Dwyer Bailey, on the night of June 10 in Freeport, were chosen to-day in the Nassau County Supreme Court here. They were chosen rapidly—a typical suburban jury of business men and farmers. Only forty-two talesmen were examined.

It is a stolid, unimpressive jury, the kind which might be expected to do a lot of arguing and then disagree. For the State District Attorney Lewis J. Smith asked each talesman whether he would convict a person of first degree murder on evidence which was only circumstantial. He asked it in four or five different ways, so that the prospective juror might not misunderstand.

Also he sought for traces of bias and preconceived decision and wanted to know whether the testimony of a negro girl, Cella Coleman, would find as much consideration as the word of a white girl.

The witnesses—and Minneola was filled with them to-day—shook their heads sagely when the trend of the district attorney's questions went abroad. As they thought, Smith asked anything but circumstantial evidence. Smith is getting nervous already.

But the district attorney smiled when the words of the Long Island cases were repeated to him. He refused to talk. His opponents, John J. Graham and George Morton Levy, counsel for Mrs. Carman, watched the district attorney like ferrets, and paid him the compliment of saying that "there was no way of telling how Smith would jump by the direction of his head."

For the defense, Mr. Graham did the juror examination.

TAKES ACTIVE PART IN SELECTING JURY

Supreme Court Justice Charles H. Kelby presided. The accused woman, with all the magnificent poise and superb self-possession that has characterized her from the first, with her husband and lawyer taking an active part in the selection of the jury which is to try her.

She was splendid. She entered the courtroom with a willow-like grace, the fairer, with her head high, her eyes clear and sparkling, and her every action indicating a keen interest in the crowd, which did everything but paw the floor with its feet.

She wore a blue broadcloth of Russian suggestion, a white shirtwaist, white gloves, and a fetching little hat with a white and black feather. She is pale, but stouter than she was when she was arraigned on the charge of manslaughter.

Thirty newspaper persons, men and women, began to take lists of notes on the appearance of this remarkable woman. They seemed to be counting the stitches in her gloves, so closely did they scan her. She neither colored nor hurried. She regarded her critics with a little bored smile, and looked down all over with a nonchalance which was amazing. Such self-possession was truly wonderful. She removed her coat, folded it over the back of her chair, shook hands with Graham and Levy, and playfully patted her cherubic husband on the cheek. She actually beamed upon the solid talesman who sat in the rear of the room reflectively stroking their chins and chewing in placid meditation.

MOST UNCONCERNED PERSON IN ROOM

By all odds she was the most unconcerned person in the room. Had she been called in to receive a token of her friends' regard, she could have been no freer from concern. Evidently she had heard several things which appealed to her sense of humor, for she began to talk and laugh, and her husband laughed with her until his rosy face grew gray and his eyes were full of tears.

During the examination of the talesmen, Mrs. Carman divided her attention between the jury and the courtroom.

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FIRING FROM SEA DEMORALIZING TO ATTACKING ARMY

Movement to Withdraw Soon Turns Into Utter Rout.

GERMANS DESPERATELY ATTEMPT TO ADVANCE

Try to Reach Coast Positions Before Starting Second Drive on Paris.

MEET WITH SEVERE LOSSES

Allies Record Further Gains in Region Between Arras and Roye.

Belgians Oppose Invading Germans

THAT part of Belgium stretching from Ostend to the French border, from which the strongly fortified French coast of Dunkirk is distant only a few miles, is hearing the brunt of the heavy fighting between the allies and the Germans.

The invaders have been attempting to force their way along the coast between Neuport and Dixmude. They are opposed by the Belgians, who, aided by British warships, according to the French official communication, have succeeded in repulsing their attacks.

The nature of the assistance afforded by the British squadron is not divulged, but previous reports indicated that the naval arm of one country or the other was being utilized in connection with the land fighting.

In the district between Arras and Roye, the allies have advanced at several points, reaching as far in some instances as the wire entanglements that constitute part of the German defensive works.

A Berlin official dispatch announces that German forces have reached the neighborhood of Dunkirk, and that the inhabitants of the Ypres and Boulogne are in flight. It confirms the reports of fighting at Dixmude and Roulers.

The German embassy at Washington, having the announcement on dispatches from the Far East, by way of San Francisco, asserts the British battleship Triumph has suffered severely from shell fire from the German forces, and has been forced to withdraw from the British-Japanese bombardment fleet.

Amsterdam reports that large numbers of refugees are returning to Antwerp, and that the city is resuming its normal appearance.

Partial Russian successes in fierce fighting in the region of Warsaw and south of Przemyśl are reported officially from Petrograd.

That the allies have recaptured Ostend is a report sent to the London Post by its correspondent in the north of France, who says he has excellent authority for the statement.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] PARIS, October 19.—British warships, commanding the English Channel, who had opened a terrific bombardment on the allies' entrenched position between Neuport, on the Belgian North Sea coast, and Dixmude, southward on the Ypres Canal, to-day, struck terror to the hearts of the invaders by their flanking and enfilading fire, and broke the force of the attack. The Belgians, fighting on their own soil to regain their country, dashed forward, and in a desperate counter-attack, hurled the Germans back.

This is the first time in the war in the north that naval vessels of any of the belligerents have effectively aided the land forces in the operations.

The firing from the guns of war vessels along the coast to the west of Ostend has been heard for two days, but until the official communique was issued from Bordeaux and transmitted for publication to General